27. (Amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps;

a) mixing at least one live bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris* with inulin, and at least one additive selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, calcium diphosphate and starch; and

b) pressing said mixture into a tablet employing a force sufficient to form said tablet and maintain at least about 60% viability of said *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris.*

28. (Amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps;

a) mixing at least one live bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris* wherein the total amount bacteria provided is between 0.5-50% by weight with 40-99.5% by weight of inulin, 0-20% by weight microcrystalline cellulose, 0-20% by weight of calcium diphosphate and 0-15% by weight of starch; and

b) pressing said mixture into a tablet employing a force sufficient to form said tablet and maintain at least about 60% viability of said *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris.*

Please cancel claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS:

22. (Amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps:

a) mixing live bacteria ~~Str. thermophilus, L. bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalmis, or L.plantaris~~ *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris* with inulin to produce a mixture; and

b) pressing said mixture into a tablet employing a force sufficient to form said tablet while maintaining at least about 60% viability of said bacteria.

27. (Amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps;

a) mixing at least one live bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris* ~~Str. thermophilus, L. bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalmis and L. plantaris~~ with inulin, and at least one additive selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, calcium diphosphate and starch; and

b) pressing said mixture into a tablet employing a force sufficient to form said tablet and maintain at least about 60% viability of said *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris*~~Str. thermophilus, L. bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalmis, L. plantaris bacterium~~.

28. (Amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps;

a) mixing at least one live bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris* ~~Str. thermophilus, L. bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalmis and L. plantaris~~ wherein the total amount bacteria provided is between 0.5-50% by weight with

40-99.5% by weight of inulin, 0-20% by weight microcrystalline cellulose, 0-20% by weight of calcium diphosphate and 0-15% by weight of starch; and

b) pressing said mixture into a tablet employing a force sufficient to form said tablet and maintain at least about 60% viability of said *Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalis and Lactobacillus plantaris*~~Str. thermophilus, L. bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium animalmis, L. plantaris bacterium~~.